

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:

To your order of the 20th instant, I beg leave to submit the following reply:

On the 8th of January, Mr. Hammond offered the following order:

“Ordered, That the committee on internal improvements be directed to enquire forthwith of the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, whether any portion of the State’s bonds which have been placed at the disposal of that company have been hypothecated? Whether it is probable that any of such bonds will hereafter be hypothecated? Whether in the arrangement made by the company with the Messrs. Barings, a system of hypothecation has been entered into, which is likely to prove disastrous to the credit of the State? What is the state of the contract entered into by him with the Barings? And whether said company has adopted any course of proceeding which is calculated to impair the State’s credit abroad? And to report the answer of said President without delay to this house.”

The following substitute, proposed by Mr. Mason, and amended on motion of Mr. Spencer, was adopted by the house:

“Ordered, That the committee on internal improvements be instructed to enquire of the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, what arrangements have been made with Baring and Brothers in relation to the State bonds; and upon what terms, embracing commissions and allowances, and to transmit to this house a copy of the written contract, if any, and all written correspondence on the subject.”

A few days after the adoption of this order, I received a communication from the rail road company, which I thought might be intended as an answer to the call of the House of Delegates; but being satisfied, on a careful examination of it, that it was designed for other purposes, I retained it in my possession. This communication, however, formed a part of the answer of the President of the company, which was returned the 20th instant, and is now on the files of the House of Delegates. Considering this communication in connexion with the orders and proceedings of the house referred to, it appears that some doubts were entertained of the accuracy of certain statements contained in my mes-